

ENALA : MAD & CCS Lika

Maja Kohek & Kruno Jošt are a transdisciplinary team interested in collaborative and participatory creative practices. Together they develop programs and projects that intertwine arts, science, technology and ecology in order to investigate localities, sustainable practices and imaginable futures. They produced exhibitions such as Collaborative Art Laboratory of Experimental and Digital Art in Scheier gallery Čakovec, Croatia or Geek's Garden in MMC Zavod K6/4 Ljubljana, Slovenia. In 2013 they curated the Bricolabs exhibition about recycled art, new technologies, open source software and sustainability at the Pixelache Festival in Helsinki, Finland.

In 2013 they started the project MAD (Mobile Art Dome) that is based on Bey's concept of TAZ (Temporary Autonomous Zones), Beuys's social sculpture intertwined with Fuller's "more for less" philosophy and contemporary art-labs. The participants (artists, scientists, technicians and visitors) are 'urban nomads' that have to first build their autonomous space (a geodesic dome 8m diameter and 3,6 height, which is the most efficient mobile structure considering stability vs. quantity of used material) which is at the same time their workplace, living place, free-time place and presenting place.

The dome is a communication tool for the participants that enables them to interact with the environment through various activities: workshops, public interventions, presentations, discussions. The results of one week activities in the dome are installed and presented inside the dome and in nearby public places. Themes that are researched during this time depend on the participants suggestions, but have a focus on landart, soundart, ecology, humanities, commons, open source software, free radio or similar.

Through collaborative and transdisciplinary strategies the participants research local environments, interact with (local and foreign) artist and scientists through workshops and public interventions and explore new approaches in artistic expression. The participants are not merely observers but are actively involved in program planning, decision making and in the production of artistic contents. This enables them to express their ideas or concepts, address local issues and broaden the perspective on the role and function of art in contemporary society.

In the same spirit as mentioned above they continue to develop the idea of the CCS Lika (Center for Creative Solutions Lika in Croatia) that represents a permanent settlement where art & science meet in order to address environmental, social and spiritual matters with the help of transdisciplinary and collaborative practices.

Background: The project is focused on a specific area of Lika region in south Croatia where ethnic discrepancy caused by recent war left devastating influence on rural area. Migration of younger people combined with unemployment and no infrastructure is causing apathy and depression, followed by PTSD and alcoholism. This area was mainly agricultural and left without any production or people to take care for the land. These facts influence the falling prices of the land that can cause industrial exploitation and environmental pollution as seen in many similar occasions. This land is also apt to other forms of wildlife crimes such as poaching and illegal sport hunting or exploitation connected to illegal wood harvesting. At the same time, this area offers a landscape untouched by industry or extensive chemical farming, and is as such an inviting place for people that want to escape urban hustle and bustle.

Project proposal: CCS Lika addresses these issues with focus on long-term and sustainable ideas that intertwine arts, science, ecology and sustainable living. It offers heterogeneous and transdisciplinary solutions through development of three main areas: research, production and community development.

1. Research is envisioned as artist and scientists collaborative residencies that produce creative and innovative ideas for community development. This years Multimedia Camp in Lika will address this issues through two months residency.

2. Production is divided to infrastructure, agriculture and tourism with focus on sustainability and environmental friendly practices. Infrastructure takes care for sustainable living *habitus* such as geodesic domes or earth houses and other. Agriculture with autochthonous plants and livestock is combined with super plants such as amaranth or hemp. Ecotourism poses the opportunity for sustainable economy as it is in the proximity of national parks of Plitvice and Paklenica and offers a great destination for people who want to enjoy untouched landscapes and healthy lifestyle.

3. Community development is divided in education through workshops and courses; spirituality where emphasis is on personal development, interpersonal relations and relations to nature; and local social work with elderly and needy. This part offers creative surroundings for younger generations to exchange ideas, knowledge and experiences or find opportunities for employment resulting in overall benefits for nature and inhabitants.

- References

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